

Whereas in apparent reaction to this criticism Dato Seri Anwar was arrested on September 20, 1998, and held under the provisions of the Malaysian Internal Security Act (ISA);

Whereas the ISA removes arrested individuals from the protections afforded criminal defendants under Malaysia's constitution and statutes, and consequently Dato Seri Anwar was held in an undisclosed location without any formal charges being lodged against him;

Whereas on September 29, 1998, Dato Seri Anwar was formally charged with nine counts of corruption and sexual misconduct, including four sodomy counts, to which another count was later added;

Whereas the vague nature of the charges, as well as the fact that two of the government's "witnesses" have already recanted, could reasonably lead to a conclusion that the charges were manufactured by the government for maximum shock value to discredit Dato Seri Anwar and silence him;

Whereas, when Dato Seri Anwar appeared at his arraignment, he had been beaten by police while in custody; and told the judge that on his first night of detention, while handcuffed and blindfolded, that he was "boxed very hard on my head and lower jaw and left eye . . . I was then slapped very hard, left and right, until blood came out from my nose and my lips cracked. Because of this I could not walk or see properly";

Whereas, to substantiate his claims, Dato Seri Anwar showed the court a large bruise on his arm; his swollen black eye was evident to everyone in the courtroom;

Whereas Dr. Mahathir suggested that Dato Seri Anwar inflicted the injuries to himself in order to gain public sympathy;

Whereas since its independence Malaysia has been transformed from a divided multi-racial developing nation into a modern, cosmopolitan, economically sophisticated country; and

Whereas the Government's actions in case of Dato Seri Anwar seriously damage the reputation of Malaysia in the eyes of rest of the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Malaysian Government should take every step to safeguard the rights of Dato Seri Anwar, ensure that any charges brought against him are not spurious, afford him a fair and open trial, and fully investigate and prosecute those responsible for his mistreatment while in detention; and

(2) all Malaysians should be permitted to express their political views in a peaceful and orderly fashion without fear of arrest or intimidation.

CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SIERRA LEONE

The Senate proceeded to consider an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 298) condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

The amendment (No. 3825), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF violence against civilians continues with more than 500 survivors of atrocities, including gunshot wounds, amputations or rape;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that only 1 in 4 victims of mutilation actually makes it to medical help;

Whereas the use and recruitment of children as combatants in this conflict has been widespread, including forcible abduction of children by AFRC and RUF rebels;

Whereas UNICEF estimates the number of children forcibly abducted since March 1998 exceeds 3,000;

Whereas the consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of over 250,000 displaced Sierra Leoneans in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the Governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, and sanitation, and medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north where more than 500 people have died since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States and its peacekeeping arm, the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG), are doing their best, but are still lacking in the logistic support needed to either bring this AFRC and RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC and RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas the United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following visits to Sierra Leone in May and June 1998, condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done to civilians by the AFRC and RUF rebels; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the President and the Secretary of State to give high priority to solving the conflict in Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa in general;

(2) condemns the use by all parties of children as combatants, in particular their forcible abduction by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front, in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

(3) calls on rebel forces to permit the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and humanitarian agencies already in the country mandated to deliver this aid;

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to strictly enforce the United Nations arms embargo on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary United Front, including the condemnation of other nations found to be not in compliance with the embargo;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to encourage the contribution of peacekeeping forces by member governments of the Economic Community of West African States to its peacekeeping arm, ECOMOG;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to support the appeal of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for aid to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and elsewhere, as well as other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working in Sierra Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the country, including support the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone;

(7) urges the President and the Secretary of State to take a more comprehensive and focused approach to its relief, recovery and development assistance program in Sierra Leone and to continue to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DDRP) for the country as peace becomes a reality;

(8) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Sierra Leone, with organizations of civil society and with ECOMOG in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, including respect for international humanitarian law;

(9) encourages and supports the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, to continue efforts to work in Sierra Leone to establish programs designed to rehabilitate child combatants; and

(10) urges all parties to make a concerted effort toward peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 298), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise on the occasion of the Senate's passage, by unanimous consent, of Senate Resolution 298, condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone. I would like to thank my colleagues, particularly the members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, for their support, as well as their quick action on this important legislation. While the resolution speaks for itself in its condemnation of atrocities and insistence that all people abide by international standards of decency, allow me to make just a few points.

On a number of occasions, Mr. President, I have come to the floor to insist that America's status as the world's first free nation, and the continuing leader of the free world, imposes certain responsibilities on us. Most important, our status imposes on us the duty to speak out and where possible act to prevent gross violations of basic human rights. Yet at this very moment there is a crisis in the Sierra Leone of tragic proportions, in which truly unbelievable atrocities are being committed against the civilian population.

Mr. President, we should not permit this tragedy to go unnoticed and we should not permit the war crimes being committed there to be committed with impunity.

I learned about the Sierra Leone crisis from concerned individuals and in my capacity as Chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee, which has oversight of refugee matters. I have spoken to Secretary of State Albright about the Sierra Leone crisis, both because of the situation of current refugees and more broadly because I believe we may have a unique opportunity to help stop the war in Sierra Leone so that more lives are not wasted or shattered and more innocent people not turned into refugees.

Over 500,000 Sierra Leonean refugees currently reside, often in conditions of incredible poverty and deprivation, outside of their country. This number includes something like 350,000 in Guinea and 182,000 in Liberia. The majority of these people have fled Sierra Leone over the past year, with over 250,000 fleeing in the past six months. All are fleeing armed conflict and civil war.

Let me briefly rehearse the events that have produced this tragic situation.

In May of 1997, the democratically elected president of Sierra Leone, President Tejan Kabbah, was overthrown in a military coup, leading to a large outflow of refugees and the evacuation of our own and other foreign embassies in the capital of Freetown. For nine months, the country was ruled by a coalition of rebel groups including the AFRC (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council) and the RUF (Revolutionary United Front). In February 1998, the West African peacekeeping force (ECOMOG, a regional force principally composed of Nigerians) secured control of Freetown and restored Kabbah to power. ECOMOG controls the area surrounding Freetown and is continuing offensives in the interior of the country to try to regain control.

Starting in February and March, rebels (also referred to as the junta) began to retaliate through a campaign of terror directed at the population. This has led to the massive exodus of hundreds of thousands of civilians. The rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, was captured by ECOMOG and is scheduled to be tried for treason in Freetown. Last month, his second in command threatened to wipe out the remaining population if Foday Sankoh is tried. Speaking on BBC radio, he declared that, if Foday Sankoh is tried, the rebels will launch "operation spare no soul," killing "every living thing, including chickens."

His past conduct proves that his threats are not empty.

Unbelievable atrocities have been committed against the Sierra Leoneans. Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea and Liberia also face severe shortages of food and medical care. Reports of violence include killings, amputations of body parts with machetes, rapes (including of young girls), and other torture. On occasion, violence has been targeted at Kabbah supporters. Some amputee victims have had notes pinned to their chests warning

Kabbah of further violence, and others are told to tell Kabbah to give them their hands back. In other cases the violence appears indiscriminate and designed to terrorize the population. Villages have been evacuated and destroyed on a large scale as Sierra Leoneans try to flee the rebels.

Mr. President, I introduced this resolution because the violence is not over. Unfortunately, it may have just begun. Fighting continues in Sierra Leone, and the refugees need help. West African states have committed their soldiers to help achieve peace in Sierra Leone. But they need logistical and other support—support we can provide without placing American lives at risk. Our leadership can make a difference here in ending the horrors in Sierra Leone and assisting the victims of war. We should not look the other way.

I thank my colleagues for their support, and I yield the floor.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE OF 1932-1933

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 122) expressing the sense of Congress that the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 should serve as a reminder of the brutality of the government of the former Soviet Union's repressive policies toward the Ukrainian people was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 122), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 122

Whereas this year marks the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 that caused the deaths of at least 7,000,000 Ukrainians and that was covered up and officially denied by the government of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas millions of Ukrainians died, not by natural causes such as pestilence, drought, floods, or a poor harvest, but by policies designed to punish Ukraine for its aversion and opposition to the government of the former Soviet Union's oppression and imperialism, including the forced collectivization of agriculture;

Whereas when Ukraine was famine-stricken, the government of the former Soviet Union exported 1,700,000 tons of grain to the West while offers from international relief organizations to assist the starving population were rejected on the grounds that there was no famine in Ukraine and no need for the assistance;

Whereas the borders of Ukraine were tightly controlled and starving Ukrainians were not allowed to cross into Russian territory in search of bread;

Whereas in his book "The Harvest of Sorrow", British historian Robert Conquest explains, "A quarter of the rural population, men, women, and children, lay dead or dying, the rest in various stages of debilitation with no strength to bury their families or neighbors.";

Whereas the Commission on the Ukraine Famine was established on December 13, 1985, to conduct a study with the goal of expanding the world's knowledge and understanding of the famine and to expose the government of the former Soviet Union for its atrocities in the famine;

Whereas the Commission's report to Congress confirmed that the government of the former Soviet Union consciously employed the brutal policy of forced famine to repress the Ukrainian population and to oppress the Ukrainians' inviolable religious and political rights; and

Whereas the Commission on the Ukraine Famine presented 4 volumes of findings and conclusions, 10 volumes of archival material, and over 200 cassettes of testimony from famine survivors to the newly independent Government of Ukraine in 1993, during the official observances of the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian famine in Kyiv, Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the victims of the government of the former Soviet Union-engineered Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 be solemnly remembered on its 65th anniversary;

(2) the Congress condemns the systematic disregard for human life, human rights, human liberty, and self-determination that characterized the repressive policies of the government of the former Soviet Union during the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933;

(3) on the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, in contrast to the policies of the government of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine is moving toward democracy, a free-market economy, and full respect for human rights, and it is essential that the United States continue to assist Ukraine as it proceeds down this path; and

(4) any supplemental material that will assist in the dissemination of information about the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, and thereby help to prevent similar future tragedies, be compiled and made available worldwide for the study of the devastation of the famine.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF THE RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall—

(1) transmit a copy of this resolution to—

- (A) the President;
- (B) the Secretary of State; and
- (C) the co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; and

(2) request that the Secretary of State transmit a copy of this resolution to the Government of Ukraine.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 185) expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recommitting the United States to the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

URGING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RECOVERING ABDUCTED CHILDREN

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 224) urging international cooperation in recovering children abducted in the United States and taken to other countries was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.